

# Colaba-Seepz Metro to be operational by 2020

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**MUMBAI:** The actual construction of Mumbai's first underground Metro project — Metro 3 — will start by March next year, and it will be operational by 2020, said Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation (MMRC) officials.

Ashwini Bhide, managing director, MMRC, said, "We have shortlisted nine consortia for civil works and the tendering process is expected to get over by December this year. The construction work will start in two-three months after that. We expect the service to start in 2020."

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## THE PROJECT

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not connected by any suburban rail service.

According to the MMRC's estimates, 14 lakh commuters will use the Metro, while the number will go up to 17 lakh by 2030. The Metro line, which is expected to reduce the number of vehicles by 4,56,771 a day, will cut the travel time between Cuffe

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- The Metro line, which is expected to reduce the number of vehicles by 4,56,771 a day, will cut the travel time between Cuffe Parade to Airport from the existing 100 minutes by car, to just 50 minutes.

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The MMRC has also come up with a fare structure, which will range from Rs11 to Rs37 for distance of 0 to 35km. However, the fare will be revised just before the Metro service starts, said Bhide.

Bhide said no project-affected person will be evicted without proper rehabilitation. The MMRC is expected to rehabilitate occupants of 2,614 properties, of which 1,889 are residential and 603 commercial.

Owing to the lack of free open space in congested areas, the underground Metro stations will have different designs. Some stations will have Metro platforms inside the station premises, while for some there will be small tunnels between stations and Metro platforms.

MMRC executive director R Ramana said, "We had to come up with different designs because of the land constraint. These stations will be constructed using either cut-and-cover method or advanced NATM technology."